

SECRET

15 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Lodge's 15 March Weekly (Saigon 20396 NODIS)

This is one of Lodge's more useful efforts, worth your skimming if you have five minutes. If you do not, its key portions are as follows:

1. The Constitution and Directorate-Assembly tensions (paras 1-10). Lodge (correctly) notes that despite general progress, there are still areas of conflict between the Directory (which, at the moment, is being hard-nosed) and the Assembly (which wants to extend its mandate). Current friction is not quite so serious as the N. Y. Times and Washington Post indicate in articles today (15 March), but -- as Lodge notes -- it is likely to take weeks rather than days for the Vietnamese to sort out their problems.
2. Hart's memo to Lodge on the impact of current operations is mentioned most favorably and quoted from extensively (paras 11-32). Our flanks are covered since, as you know, I have already sent the memo to Rostow, Komer, Bundy, Hughes, McNaughton, and Gen. Carroll.
3. Casualty and Chieu Hoi statistics, latter still up (paras 33-38).
4. A good rundown on the "false peace" demonstrations the GVN is currently sponsoring (paras 39-42).
5. Some axe grinding praise of the President (43-44).
6. Talk of the recently captured photographs and what to do with them (45). I have already been in touch with Tom Hughes on this.
7. Talk about U.S. troop behavior, one of Lodge's hobby horses (46 - 50).
8. ARVN behavior: good in places, bad in others (51-53).
9. Economic data (54-58).
10. Miscellaneous comments on Romney (59) and Guam (60).

George A. Carver, Jr.

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